changes in the weaponary and communication system and to suggest ways and means to meet them adequately.

(d) and (e) The need of upgrading the wireless system in the metros is being increasingly felt as more efficient system like Digital Radio Trunking system are available. Such systems have already been installed in Bombay and Delhi.

Contractors funding militants in J and K

1436. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item titled "Contractors in Jammu and Kashmir funding militants" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 12th January, 2000; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop the flowing of such huge funds to militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government are aware of the media reports in this regard. However no concrete evidence has come to the notice of the Government.

Free movement of Pak spies in U.P.

1437. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item titled, "Pak spies operate without checks all over Uttar Pradesh" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 13th January, 2000; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to restrict free movement of Pak spies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME

AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, it is not correct to say that Pak spies are operating unchecked in U.P. Arrests were made by the State Government during 1998 and 1999 in Meerut and Kanpur in connection with espionage activities. Further, the State Government has constituted a Special Task Force and also created UP and Indo-Nepal Border Police to check such activities. Monthly meetings are also held to review the steps taken and vigil is being kept by State Police and Intelligence Units.

(b) Central Government has been sensitising the State Governments about threat perceptions and movements of ISI activists, anti-national elements and insurgents from time to time. As a result of coordinated action a number of ISI backed modules have been neutralised. Periodic coordination meetings are held with State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters and for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies, belonging to Union and States have been working together to counter the situation.

Restructuring of NEC

1438. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the composition of the North Eastern Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concerned States have been consulted;

(d) if so, their opinions in the matter; and

(e) by when the matter would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill 1998 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 8th December 1998. The salient features of the Bill regarding composition are furnished below: